(e) The Marine Products Export Development Authority has been assisting the fishing vessel owners by providing subsidy for installation of fish finders, Global Positioning System (GPS), fish hold, etc. in mechanised fishing vessels; training of fishermen on the use of fish finders, GPS, etc.; installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) on board fishing vessels; supply of insulated fish boxes to fishermen; etc.

Subsidies for export of grains

162.SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) the facilities and subsidies provided to private traders to export grains;

(b) whether traders are demanding more subsidies; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the extant EXIM Policy, export of wheat and rice is free. Some of the provisions to boost the export of foodgrains (wheat and rice) include publicity compaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International Trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial asistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the stoppage of release of wheat and non-basmati rice from FCI at concessional rates since 11th August, 2003, exporters have been demanding continuation of the facility. A New foodgrain export policy is currently at an advanced stage of consideration in Government.

Support price for tobacco

163. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh have sought support price in view of low prices of tobacco in the market; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN). (a) No, Sir. the price of